

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. A method for marking a ladder comprising contacting a ladder portion
5 with an image reverse printed on a paper sheet with at least one sublimation ink,
and applying heat to the paper sheet such that at least a portion of the ink
sublimates from the paper sheet into the ladder portion.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the ladder portion includes a fiberglass
10 rail of the ladder.
3. The method of claim 1, further comprising allowing a customer to
select the image.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising acquiring a digital image and
15 reverse printing the digital image on the paper sheet with the sublimation ink such
the ladder portion is provided with an image corresponding to the digital image.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein acquiring the digital image comprises
20 digitally photographing a customer.
6. The method of claim 4, wherein acquiring the digital image comprises
converting a traditional photograph to a digital image.
7. The method of claim 4, wherein acquiring the digital image comprises
25 accessing one or more computer-readable storage media in which the digital image
is stored.
8. The method of claim 4, wherein acquiring the digital image comprises
30 acquiring the digital image over a network.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the image comprises at least one of a photograph, a photographic print, an alphanumeric character, a logo, a distinctive mark, an identifying symbol, an advertisement, a trademark, a name, a monogram, a sports team insignia, artwork, an art print, one or more indicia, and a graphic design.

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10. The method of claim 1, wherein the image provided on the ladder portion allows the ladder to be readily identified.

11. A ladder including an image provided thereon by the method of claim

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12. A method of safeguarding a ladder comprising contacting a ladder portion with an image reverse printed on a paper sheet with at least one sublimation ink, and applying heat to the paper sheet such that at least a portion of the ink sublimates from the paper sheet into the ladder portion to provide the ladder portion
5 with an image that allows the ladder to be readily identified.

13. The method of claim 12, further comprising allowing a customer to select the image.

10 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the image resembles a customer's appearance.

15 15. The method of claim 12, further comprising acquiring a digital image and reverse printing the digital image on the paper sheet with the sublimation ink such the ladder portion is provided with an image corresponding to the digital image.

20 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the image comprises at least one of a photograph, a photographic print, an alphanumeric character, a logo, a distinctive mark, an identifying symbol, an advertisement, a trademark, a name, a monogram, a sports team insignia, artwork, an art print, one or more indicia, and a graphic design.

17. A system for marking a ladder comprising a printer for reverse printing an image onto a paper sheet with at least one sublimation ink, and a heat press adapted to hold a portion of the ladder in contact with the reverse-printed image while applying heat to the paper sheet, the heat causing at least a portion of the ink to sublimate from the paper sheet into the ladder portion.

18. The system of claim 17, wherein the ladder portion includes a fiberglass rail of the ladder.

19. The system of claim 17, further comprising a digital image capture device operatively associated with the printer to allow the printer to reverse print digital images captured by the digital image capture device.

20. A ladder including an image produced by the system of claim 17.